

As we reach the halfway point of this two year budget cycle, the Department of Library & Leisure Services continues to offer quality services while providing additional services within the same funding framework.

Since the development of the trail system, the Parks & Recreation Division has successfully operated this new program without any additional staffing. The costs related to trails maintenance, which is contracted out, have been absorbed into the department's budget by shifting funding from other functional areas. In addition, staff has been creatively using other resources, such as working with the Sheriff's Office to utilize inmate labor at various park and trail locations.

Wilson's Landing Park located on the Wekiva River and SR 46 will open by the end of January 2005. The park was funded by the Natural Lands program and will offer passive recreational opportunities such as picnicking, an overlook to the Wekiva River and mooring of canoes and small watercraft. The park will also have paved parking. An additional 4.4 miles of the Cross Seminole trail will be added to the trail system along with 1.2 miles of the Kewannee Trail and 5.5 miles of the Flagler Trail with one trailhead and three timber bridges.

Needed improvements to Soldier's Creek Park facilities will bring the park in line with the maintenance and safety standards of all park locations. Resurfacing of the Greenwood Lakes Park roller hockey rink will allow users to utilize this facility for more advanced play.

Technology will also play a role in improving service. The department plans to introduce the use of debit/credit cards in both parks and libraries. An enhancement to the Park's automation system will allow patrons view and reserve bookings via the internet and use debit/credit cards for fee

based transactions. An enhancement to the Library automation system will enable the use of debit/credit cards to pay fines online. This is consistent with the County's overall E-Government initiative.

In response to the growth of the business community in the County, a vacant Library Services position has been reclassified as a Business Services Program Manager to assist businesses with library resources on such topics as starting a business, product development, market research and benchmarking. The Urban Horticulture program has been expanded to provide outreach to retail garden centers.

The staff of the Department of Library & Leisure Services looks forward to another productive year serving the citizens of Seminole County.

